



The Trafalgar School

at Downton

11th July 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the end of Term 6, in what has been a very busy year for The Trafalgar School, I feel it is an appropriate time to share some information regarding changes during the next academic year.

Languages

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Rhiannon Judd for her contribution to Trafalgar over the last 2 years and to wish her well with her future career.

In considering a replacement teacher for the Modern Foreign Languages Department I had to take into account the availability of high quality teachers available at this stage of the year. As there is a shortage of languages teachers in the UK, I have taken the decision to delay appointing a direct replacement until September 2019. This will enable us to network and hopefully build a strong pool of potential candidates earlier in the academic year which, in the long term, will ensure that we can appoint a strong candidate. For the next academic year KS3 (Year 7, 8 and 9) languages will have a reduction in curriculum time for 1 year, which will bring it in line with the time allocated to a number of other subject areas within the curriculum. This time has been reallocated to the Mathematics and Geography Departments for 1 year. Sarah Burley and Rachael Faulkner will contribute to the teaching of languages; both are experienced linguists with extensive experience of teaching languages in schools and will work alongside Subject Leader, Andy Cleeter.

Staffing Changes

Due to the ever-increasing popularity of our school, we have recruited 4 additional and 1 replacement teacher for September 2018. We welcome:

Sultana Begum, Teacher of Mathematics and Form Tutor 7P SBe

Hannah Bradford, Teacher of Mathematics and Form Tutor 7P HB

Gian-Luc Angiolini, Teacher of Geography and Form Tutor 8R

Morgan McNiff, Teacher of PE and Head of Radnor House

Claire Pike, Teacher of Science and Form Tutor 9P (shared with Jo Holden)

Brenda Goodman has taken up an opportunity within the Trust to become Magna Learning Partnership Attendance Manager for Trafalgar, St Edmund's Girls' School and Wyvern College. Whilst Brenda will still be based at Trafalgar for 2 days per week, it means that she is stepping down permanently from her role as Head of Radnor House.

Mobile Phones

With effect from Monday this week, we introduced a corridor ban on mobile phones and earphones/headphones; they must not be seen at any time (including break and lunch). The purpose of this is to enable more awareness of space when students are on the move in the corridors and so they are not heads down and focussed on their screens. We are currently considering further mobile phone options, given the link to mental health and increased phone usage, so this may be under further review. I have been very impressed at how quickly students have adapted to this change, which is already improving the flow of students around the building at lesson changeovers.

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Restaurant

Being mindful of student feedback, we will be introducing an additional serverly from September as well as further outdoor seating. Depending on how this reduces the pressure in the Restaurant we may also consider moving to phasing Restaurant access for KS3 and KS4, but we will review this during Term 1.

New PE Kit

As I communicated to parents earlier in the school year, following on from student feedback via the School Council, our PE uniform has changed. Full details can be found on our website under 'Parents', 'Uniform'. The new kit will be compulsory for students joining us in Year 7, but optional for other years and will be phased in as their current kit needs to be replaced. There are 2 regulation items (polo shirt and rugby shirt) that must be purchased from Price & Buckland, but the remaining items can be purchased either from them, or any high street/online retailer. Our students were consulted at every stage and I am sure will take great pride in wearing a practical, but modern, PE uniform.

As ever we have had a very busy year and managed to pack in many great events, trips and competitions, alongside our curriculum provision, PPEs and GCSEs. I would like to take the opportunity to thank our dedicated staff for all they do to challenge, inspire and support our students and to thank you at home for in turn supporting your children and our school.

I hope you all have a relaxing, recharging and safe summer.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely

Stewart Roderick
Headteacher